

MNMM Fatal 2006-14

- Falling Material
- June 12, 2006 (Virginia)
- Crushed Stone Operation
- Machine/Plant Operator
- 39 years old
- 14 months mining experience

Overview

The victim was fatally injured while starting to repair a hydraulic line on a front-end loader that was parked outside of the shop. He was underneath the raised boom, loosening a hydraulic connection, when the boom arms fell, pinning him against the frame.



Root Causes

- A risk assessment to determine all possible hazards and to establish safe work procedures was not conducted prior to repairing a hydraulic line on a front-end loader. No procedures were in place to ensure that persons could safely perform maintenance tasks on mobile equipment. The raised components of the front-end loader were not blocked to prevent hazardous motion.
- Standards and controls were inadequate and failed to ensure that training regarding maintenance on mobile equipment was provided to persons before performing the task.

Best Practices

- Stop, Look, Analyze, and Manage (SLAM) each task to identify all potential hazards before performing maintenance work. Practice safe work habits during the entire task.
- Consult and follow the manufacturer's recommended safe work procedures for the maintenance task.
- Train miners in safe work procedures before beginning repairs.
- Securely block equipment against all hazardous motion at all times while performing maintenance work.
- Never travel or work under a raised loader bucket.
- Never loosen hydraulic hoses or components without first determining if they may be holding something up or trapping pressure.